

REMARKS

Applicants herein supplement the Amendment originally filed on May 7, 2008 to include the phrase “its o-desmethylvenlafaxine active metabolite, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof” after “venlafaxine” in the final lines of claim 1. Applicants submit that the inclusion of this phrase in the last lines of claim 1 more accurately and precisely points out the present invention. No new matter has been added.

On pages 2-4 of the February 7, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Reconsideration is requested.

As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the pending claims to recite that the claimed metabolite of venlafaxine is the o-desmethylvenlafaxine (ODV) metabolite. Further, claim 1 has been amended to recite that maximum plasma concentration is obtained in less than four (4) hour and that the inert pellets have a diameter mesh size ranging from 15 to about 60 mesh. Further, claims 2, 6 and 23-32 have been cancelled and the dependency of claims depending upon them has been changed. No new matter has been added. Support for the above amendments can be found at least in the claims as originally filed, and in the specification at page 1, last full paragraph, page 4 the first full paragraph, and in the paragraph that carries over from page 5 to 6 of the specification as originally filed.

Based upon the amendment submitted on May 7, 2008 and remarks therein and the present supplemental Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, 16 and 18-22 are allowable over the prior art and that the present application is in proper form for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance is respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. P. Chiara', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas P. Chiara
Reg. No. 52,737

MAILING ADDRESS:
HEDMAN & COSTIGAN, P.C.
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-2601
(212) 302-8989